

Meeting Date: September 25, 2013

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**Request for *approval* to enter into a contract to receive funds from the
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the amount of \$254,119,
and subsequently enter into contract with the San Francisco Estuary Institute in support of the
Enhancing Regional Capacity for Wetland Project Tracking, Assessment and Report Project
September 25, 2013**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff requests board authorization for the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for \$254,119 in support of the Enhancing Regional Capacity for Wetland Project Tracking, Assessment and Reporting Project. Staff also requests board authorization for the Executive Officer to enter into a contract with the San Francisco Estuary Institute/Aquatic Science Center (SFEI/ASC) in support of this project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Delta Conservancy, in partnership with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV), Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV), and SFEI/ASC, are proposing to expand the current capabilities of the wetland project tracking system, EcoAtlas, developed by the California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup, a subcommittee of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, for the monitoring and assessment of California's aquatic resources. The Delta Conservancy and its partners propose to leverage existing work and resources to enhance EcoAtlas to meet the project tracking, assessment, and reporting needs for current and planned habitat restoration in the Delta and project partners of the SFBJV and CVJV.

BACKGROUND

In the development of the project the Conservancy held meetings on December 11, 2012, February 28, 2013, and June 3, 2013, attended by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, SFBJV, CVJV, State and Federal Contractors Water Agency, SFEI/ASC, Delta Stewardship Council, and SWRCB staff. Demonstrations of existing project tracking systems were given and followed by discussion of individual agency/program needs for a project tracking/reporting/mapping system. There is broad support and need for this project in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and Central Valley regions.

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BUDGET

Total project cost is \$400,727. The grant award is for \$254,119 and will go to SFEI/ASC for their work on EcoAtlas. The remaining project cost of \$146,608 is being provided through in-kind services from the Conservancy, Department of Water Resources, SFBJV, SWRCB, and SFEI/ASC.

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